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July 29, 2009

Ms. Heather Hunt
Department of Justice
Registration Unit
1400 New York Avenue, NW
1st Floor – Public Office
Suite 100
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Hunt:

Please find attached two copies of a Dear Colleague letter and letter to the Secretary of State by Gephardt Group Government Affairs. Gephardt Group Government Affairs, LLC is registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act to represent the Republic of Turkey with the Department of Justice. The Dear Colleague and the accompanying letter were provided to the following congressional staffers and offices:

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Ashley Lough, Office of Rep. Brad Ellsworth (D-IN)
Katie Hargis, Office of Rep. Vic Snyder (D-AR)
Jed Bhuta, Office of Rep. Heath Shuler (D-NC)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Messmer", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Michael Messmer
Vice President

These materials are distributed by Gephardt Group Government Affairs, LLC on behalf of the Republic of Turkey. Additional information regarding Gephardt Group's representation of the Republic of Turkey is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

SUPPORT EFFORTS TO FIND A SETTLEMENT TO THE CYPRUS ISSUE

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in sending the below letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton supporting the ongoing negotiations between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot leaders under the auspices of the United Nations Good Offices Mission, and encouraging the United States to take an active role in the process.

The deadline to sign on to this letter is Wednesday, July 29th. For more information or to sign on, please contact James Robertson (Whitfield) at james.robertson@mail.house.gov or Marilyn Dillihay (Cohen) at marilyn.dillihay@mail.house.gov

Sincerely,

Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

July 29, 2009

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

We write to you concerning the ongoing negotiations in Cyprus that are being conducted by the two Cypriot communities, under the auspices of the United Nations Good Offices Mission. As you are well aware, the situation in Cyprus is of considerable concern to us, as well as many in the international community, and we believe there is a great opportunity for the United States to exert leadership to help foster substantive rapprochement between these two communities.

On May 23, 2008, Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat and Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias met in Cyprus. The culmination of that meeting was the issuance of a joint statement declaring their shared vision for a partnership that "will have a Federal Government with a single international personality, as well as a Turkish Cypriot Constituent State and a Greek Cypriot Constituent State, which will be of equal status."

More recently, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Philip Gordon, in testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on European and Eurasia Affairs stated that, "resolution of the Cyprus problem will have a tremendous impact on the region by strengthening peace, justice, and prosperity on the island, advancing Turkey's European Union accession, improving NATO-EU cooperation and removing a source of friction between two NATO allies, Greece and Turkey". We certainly agree with this assessment and welcome Mr. Talat's and Mr. Christofias' hopeful announcement; however, we are troubled that substantive negotiations between the two communities to achieve this laudable goal have yet to produce any meaningful results. Of course, we also recognize that the history of efforts to resolve the Cyprus problem has been difficult and has taken many turns, including the rejection of the United Nations Plan in 2004.

We are mindful that President Obama has said that the United States is "willing to offer all the help sought by the parties as they work toward a just and lasting settlement that reunifies Cyprus." We also appreciate your efforts to reach out to both sides. However, we are concerned that all momentum to find a comprehensive settlement may be lost if the United States waits to be asked for help by the parties. That is why we strongly urge you to actively engage the negotiating parties and other interested stakeholders, such as the Governments of Greece and Turkey, in an effort to jumpstart the talks and achieve concrete results by the end of this year. Such an outcome would not only end the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots but would also improve in many other ways the lives of Greek and Turkish Cypriots living on the island. As Mr. Gordon stated, it would also remove a major irritant to relations between two important NATO allies and boost regional stability and cooperation.

We believe U.S. leadership in this matter is urgently called for. We hope you share our views and concerns, and will give serious consideration to our recommendations.

Sincerely yours,